LIVING ON THE EDGE

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RED

Story & Art

村枝賢一

Kenichi Murae da

LIVING ON THE EDGE OF RED

WHEN THE GREAT TRAVELLER AND HIS COMPANION DESCENDED, THERE WAS NOUGHT ON THE LAND BUT SOIL.

THOSE WHO WALK ON FOUR...

FROM THE REMAINING SOIL, THE GREAT TRAVELLER AND HIS COMPANION CRAFTED THOSE WHO WALK ON TWO LEGS...

HIS COMPA-NION...

THE GREAT TRAVELLER AND...

GATHERED THE SOIL. WITH IT THEY CRAFTED THE SKY AND THE MOUNTAINS. THEY WHITTLED IT AWAY, CRAFTING THE SEAS AND RIVERS.

THE LAND UPON WHICH THE GREAT TRAVELLER AND HIS COMPANION DESCENDED...

WAS REACHED BY WHITE MEN, WHO HAD CROSSED THE SEAS. IT WAS...

THOSE WHO FLY IN THE SKY...

AND THOSE WITH NO LEGS AT ALL...

INDEED, IT WAS THEY WHO CRAFTED ALL LIVING THINGS...

CALLED THE NEW WORLD...

新大陸と呼ばれんだ……

第1話 REDMAN WALKING

IEROOOH!

FALL UPON YOUR OWN SWORD! CUT OUT YOUR STOMACH!

WE'LL BE COMPLETELY LEFT BEHIND!

THEY SAY THE DAMN SATSUMA ARMY HAS ALREADY PULLED BACK!

ドオオオン

ドオオオオン

WE CAN DO NOTHING BUT ALL CUT OUR STOMACHS!

WE'VE BROUGHT SHAME TO THE HOUSE OF HIGO WITH THIS LOSS TO THE BUMPKIN LOYALISTS!

EEP...!

IE-ROH.

YOU NEED NOT CUT YOUR STOMACH...

TO AMERICA...

LET US FLEE TOGETHER...

★この作品では、作中の時代設定を19世紀末としている関係上、アメリカ先住民の呼称を「インディアン」に統一しています。また、作中に他人種間での差別的な発言等の出てくる場面がありますが、これは当時の時代背景に即した表現を目指すものであり、作者に差別助長の意図はありません。（編集部）

RED

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Story & Art
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★この物語はフィクションです。登場する全ての人名・地名・団体名等は実在のものと一切関係ありません。

AMERI...?!

AME...?!

はあ

はあ

はあはあ

！

THANK GOOD-NESS FOR THAT.

WAIT... IS IT ON THE INSIDE?

IT'S NOT?! ALRIGHT!

AAH... STOP THAT! IF I WET THE BED AGAIN...

1880, AMERICA

I'VE LONG BEEN IN AMERICA NOW...

JUST HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS THAT?

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THERE'S A SHOW IN TOWN! COME SEE!

IESHUAN! IESHUAN!

洗衣店

LAUNDRY

HEEEY! IESHUAN.

COME ON, COME ON, STOP BABBLING AND GET TO WORK IESHUAN!

EVEN WU'S JOINING IN.

BUT TWO "IE" MAKES IESHUAN!

R---IGHT!

MY NAME IS NOT IESHUAN. IT'S IEROH ITOU.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, CHEECHON, CHEEKIN...

T/N: IESHUAN FEATURES THE CHARACTERS OR "TWIN" AND "IE".

HMPH... SO THE ORIGINAL AMERICANS THEN...

THEY'RE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HERE BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME.

AN INDIAN?

THE WILD INDIAN SHOW...

MMM!

HOW ABOUT WE GO ONCE THE MORNING DELIVERY'S DONE!

STILL, WHO KNOWS WHAT THE INDIAN COMING TODAY'LL BE LIKE.

SOUNDS SCARY TO ME...

AREN'T THEY MEANT TO BE A REAL ROUGH LOT? THEY SAY THEY'LL GO AROUND ATTACK NG PIONEERS, FIGHTING CAVALRY AND THE LIKE.

PEH.

...

THEY'RE ALL SEEN AS "LOWER" THAN THE WHITE MAN.

THE INDIANS ARE THE SAME AS THE CHINESE AND JAPANESE.

HM...?

O... OI! ANGIEEE!

OI OI, THAT'S A FINE SIGHT ANG E.

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME-ONE BY THE TOWN ENTRANCE...

SOME-THING'S OFF

!

IS THAT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A PROSTITUTE?

BUT STILL, YOU'RE AWFULLY CALM GOING OUT STARK NAKED IN FRONT OF THE TRAFFIC.

OOH!

!

I MEAN... I DO LIKE THAT GREAT, TOWERING SPIRIT OF YOURS...

OUT HERE IN THE WEST YOU CAN'T COUNT ON THE LAW OR JUSTICE TO HELP YOU. ALL I HAVE TO SURVIVE WITH IS MY BODY!

DON'T GO BABBLING ON ALL MORNING IN THAT SELF IMPORTANT WAY!

SO WHAT, SO WHAT?!

SHERIFF

I'M THE SHERIFF! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SAY THAT STUFF TO ME?!

Ty

YOU SAY THAT... BUT...

!

UH... WAAAH, STOP IT, I'LL FALLLL!

WHO CARES WHETHER YOU'RE A SHERIFF OR THE PRESIDENT, RIGHT NOW YOU'RE JUT A NASTY OLD CUSTOMER!

OH, IE-SAN.

GAAAAH.

ANGIE'S NOT... EXACTLY SHY...

YOU SHOULD STOP BY AS A CUSTOMER SOME TIME. I'LL GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME!

I'M HERE...

FROM WU'S LAUNDRY.

#10

OI! DON'T MOCK HIM TOO MUCH.

HE'S JAPA-NESE.

THOUGH THEY'RE SIMILAR RIGHT...

THOSE DAMN CHINESE ARE ALWAYS SCRABBLING AROUND FOR A FEW COINS...

OI, IT'S THAT NO GOOD IE!

BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME IE JUST GOT DOWN RIGHT AWAY AND APOLOGISED!

NEXT DAY THAT THUG ONLY WENT AND CHALLENGED HIM TO A DUEL!

?!

HE DID IT SO QUICKLY WITH THOSE SHORT LIMBS OF HIS TOO... IT WAS REAL LIFE ORIENTAL MAGIC.

SOME TIME AGO A ROUGH THUG TRIED FORCING HIS WAY PAST THAT MIDGET, YET HE FLUNG HIM BAREHANDED!

THOUGH THE STORY CONTINUES.

JUST A COWARD ... EH.
NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO. . WHAT THEY SAID WAS TRUE.
NOT A MONKEY THAT, MORE LIKE A CHICKEN!
I MEAN, EVEN IF A COWARDLY MONKEY CAN USE MAGIC, IT AIN'T GONNA TRY RISKING ITS LIFE!
PAY THEM NO MIND IE.
THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HEREEE?!
OI YOU!

WHAT'S THE MATT-ER?

HM?!

OI, YOU LISTENING?! WE'RE THE ONES WHO PROTECT THIS TOWN'S PUBLIC ORDER!

HE'S... EVEN BROUGHT A WOLF ALONG...

WHAT THE?

!

SO THAT'S...

AN INDIAN...

HEY HEY! THIS TOWN IS NO PLACE FOR INDIANS!

!

WHAT'S WITH HIM... HE'S SO BIZARRELY TALL...

ME... WORDS... LITTLE UNDER-STAND.

ME INDIAN.

HAO.

SCREW THIS...

RIGHT

TCH... WHAT A PAIN.

HE'S NOT FUSSED AT ALL, GOOD GRIEF!

ARGH... DAMN MUTT...

HEEEH...

YOU TRYING TA LOOK COOL THERE JAPA-NESE?

IT'S HARDLY A MANLY THING IS IT...

GANGING UP ON AN UNARMED MAN?!

YOU THERE, STOP IT!

NO NEEDLESS KILLING!

WOULDN'T THINGS BE FINE IF YOU JUST KICKED HIM OUT OF TOWN?!

!

EVEN IF I AM JUST A CHICKEN?

YOU GONNA KILL ME TOO?

...

!

YOU GONNA STOP THEM, BERNS?

IT'S A GATHERING OF NOTHING BUT THUGS .. HARDLY THE SORT YOU'D WANT FOR DEPUTIES.

I WAS WONDERING WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS, TURNS OUT IT'S JUST MY MEN.

HMPH

THINGS MIGHT GET INTERES-TING

WERE IT A WHITE MAN THEN SURE

IT'S FINE AIN'T IT.

HOLD ON NOW ..

...

H..

?!

THAT MAN'S AN EXCEPTION! HE'S A SPECIAL SORT OF INDIAN!

WH... WHAT'S THAT?

WAIT, WAIT, WAAAIT! PLEASE, WAIT!

WE WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE SORTING THIS OUT, SO COULD YOU PLEASE BACK OFF!

DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT TODAY'S WILD INDIAN SHOW?

DAILY CITY NEWS

THE WILD INDIAN SHOW

IT WAS OUR PAPER COMPANY WHO CALLED HIM.

TCH

YOU GOT LUCKY, SHORTY!

TCH... WASSAT.. IN THAT CASE I GUESS...

AN INDIAN SHOW... EH?

AND YOU'RE THE STAR?

HA...

WHEEEW. YOU SAVED ME THERE!

YOUR HEART HAS THE COURAGE OF A BEAR!

H... HUH...?

A... A BEAR?

YES. IT'S AN INDIAN TITLE FOR THOSE WITH COURAGE AND WISDOM.

C... COURAGE AND WISDOM, EH...

AAALRIGHT, AAALRIGHT, YOU GOTTA COME SEE THE SHOW! I'LL LET YOU IN FOR FREE!

WH... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?!

WHAT AN AMAZING SOUND!

BUT SO LIGHT AND CHEER-FUL!

AND THE COSTUME'S ALL FLUTTERY TOO!

SO THAT'S AN INDIAN THEN.

HOW MYSTE-RIOUS!

WHAAAT'S THAT... MYSTERIOUS EH... BUT HE'S JUST A FAKE...

NO GOOD!

COME ON... LIFT IT...

HOOK!

WHAT A USELESS IDIOT.

YES... THANKS, YES, VERY HEAVY.

WHAT IS ALL TH S .

DANCE JUST NOW PUT GREAT SPIRIT'S STRENGTH INSIDE ME...

NOW, EVERYONE. HERE SHOW INDIAN SECRET TECHNIQUE!

TCH... WHAT A NOISY FAKE!

BESIDES THAT I'M A WELL RECOGNISED SHERIFF. SO HOW'S ABOUT IT? IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN LIVE ON IN LUXURY.

I SERVED AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE FAMOUS 7TH CAVALRY REGIMENT.

IT'S ALREADY FINISHED. A FINE MANSION FIT FOR YOU IN THE BEST DISTRICT, OVERLOOKING THE TOWN.

SAY ANGIE, I'VE SOME-THING SERIOUS TO TALK ABOUT.

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU BECOME MY WOMAN.

I... INCREDIIIBLE! FOUR MEN COULDN'T DO IT!

SO THIS IS THE SECRET OF THE INDIAN!

...

...

OOOOH! HE'S LIFTING IT!

O... OI, ANGIIIE!

THAT BIG MAN'S PRETTY GOOD!

AMAZ-IIING!

TRUTH BE TOLD I HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION FOR A WHILE!

SORRY BERNS, BUT WE'LL LEAVE THE TALK FOR SOME OTHER TIME.

THAT TROUBLE-SOME INDIAN.

TCH... ANGIIIE.

H... HEY, CHEEKIN!

WEEELL, WEEELL?

HEEEY, INDIAN BRO. HOW ABOUT YOU HAVE DINNER AT OURS TODAY.

I GUESS THERE'S NO HELP-ING IT.

WELL YOU KNOW

WHAT'S WITH YOUR SPEECH... BRO?

HAO.

MM... I AM STARVING, USED UP ALL MY STRENGTH THERE!

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, DINNER?! THAT'D BE GREAT!

HM? AAH.

SAAAY, BRO. WHAT'S THIS WOLF CALLED?

THAT'S TIYOLE.

IT MEANS WANDERER, OR... ONE WHO TRAVELS IN SEARCH OF A PEACEFUL LAND.

ONE WHO TRAVELS IN SEARCH OF A PEACEFUL LAND... EH.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRO?

MY NAME?

YOU'VE NOT SAID ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT YOU'RE AN INDIAN SINCE THE SHOW!

INDIANS...

RARELY TELL THEIR TRIBAL NAMES.

BUT...

BUT?

MY NAME WAS RED, LIKE THE SETTING SUN...

RED...

LONG AGO... BACK THEN...

WHEN THAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED, I DID HAVE ONE NAME...

WAS IT SOME SORT OF COMING OF AGE CERE-MONY?

WHEN THAT HAD HAP-PENED...? HIS NAME...?

DON'T MENTION IT. IT'S JUST A SPOT TO SLEEP IN A RENTED BARN.

SORRY FOR THIS, IE.

OVER SIX FOOT ISN'T IT... WHAT IS IT?

WELL FOR THAT...

...

!

IE... THAT'S...

I CAST AWAY IT ALL YET THAT... WAS THE ONE THING I COULDN'T GET RID OF...

CAST AWAY MY HOMELAND... CAST AWAY MY PRIDE...

YOU SEE I...

NAH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

SOUNDS AS THOUGH IT'S A BAD TOPIC.

ALRIGHT.

WHATEVER HAPPENED, WE WOULD LIVE, OR DIE TOGETHER!

ALONG-SIDE, THEM CAME, THE FAMED MATCHLOCK MASTER, IEROH!

WE WERE ADDED TO THE SATSUMA ARMY AS THE KUMAMOTO REGIMENT!

SAIGO OF SATSUMA HAD RAISED AN ARMY.

YET...

TO THE PROMISE I HAD MADE TO MY COM-RADES...

TO MY SAMURAI CODE...

I... WAS AFRAID... I WAS AFRAID, SO COULD NOT KEEP...

YET I DID NOT CUT MY OWN STOMACH...

TEMPTED ME...

IT WAS HE... THE CHRISTIAN WHO...

I...

IT WAS TRULY AN EXAGER-ATION.

YOU SAID I WAS A BEAR... A SYMBOL OF COURAGE AND WISDOM...

HM?

RED...

I... SEARCH AND I SEARCH FOR SOMEWHERE TO DIE, BUT I'M TOO MUCH OF A COWARD TO DO SO...

I STILL... DAY AFTER DAY, WET THE BED IF I HAVE SUCH DREAMS.

YOU'RE... MISTAKEN ABOUT THAT...

"D...

I'D SIMPLY GO ON LIVING.

IF I HAD THE TIME TO SIMPLY SEARCH FOR SOMEWHERE TO DIE...

HAHAA!

BEST GET READY, INDIAN!

SHIIIT!

WHAT'S WRONG?

!

WH... WHA'TS THAT?!

THE LIGHTS WENT OUT!

S... SHIIIT!

WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?!

W... WAS-SAT?

ドンッ

TH... THESE ARE... THE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES...

REED!

RED... THOSE GUNSHOTS JUST NOW... IS RED ALRIGHT?!

...

...!

ドンッ

AAH...

IE!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?!

KYAAAAAH!

NO! NOOOO!

!

I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS!

AAAAAAH!

THAT WAS CHEE-CHON.

BEST GET READY INDIAN

I'M SURE THEY SAID .

RED...

NO!

MAYBE THEY WERE TRYING TO GET PAYBACK FOR LUNCH...

AAAH.

CHEE-CHON. ?!

BUT... WHY?!

...

TIYO-LE!

HEY, HOLD UP!

TI-YOLE!

!

H... H...

HE...

IT COULDN'T BE...

HE FLED...

I THINK IT'D BE BEST THAT YOU DO THINGS OBEDIENTLY, BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER...

NOW... SEE...

ANGIIIIE...

YOU PROMISED THAT IF I WON THIS MATCH... BOTH ME AND THE GIRL WOULD GO UNHARMED.

KYAAAAH!

STOP MESSING AROUND!

YET YOU DO LIKE TO TEASE A LITTLE TOO FRIVOLOUSLY.

YOU'RE A LOVELY, FIRM WOMAN...

THOSE TWO STILL AREN'T BACK.

WELL, NOT LIKE THAT'S THE PROBLEM. NO DOUBT IT WAS THE INDIAN AND THAT IE...

THAT'S RIGHT.

HMPH... SEEMS YOU REALLY DISLIKE THE INDIAN.

YOU KNOW... IN MY BUSINESS YOU HEAR ALL SORTS OF RUMOURS WITH BEDTIME TALK.

FOR IN-STANCE...

THE... EXCEPTIONAL PROMOTION YOU RECEIVED FROM YOUR BELOVED SEVENTH CAVALRY REGIMENT.

AN EXCEPTIONAL PROMOTION?

NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN...

ドドド

WE'VE FINALLY... FOUND HIM...
TIYOLE...

ドロ

ドゥ..